

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Upon entry, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical device for use in surgery comprising:

a spring-loaded mounting element;

a sealing member of pliable material mounted to the mounting element, the sealing member having a normally closed access opening; and

at least a portion of the mounting element being movable on insertion of an object to open the access opening while the sealing member maintains substantial sealing engagement with the object.

2. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mounting element comprises a first ring element and a second ring element and the sealing member extends between the ring elements.

3. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 comprising wherein the spring-loaded mounting element includes a biasing means to bias the sealing member to close the access opening.

4. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the biasing means is provided by pre-tensioning the sealing member to close the access opening.

5. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sealing member comprises a sleeve.

6. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the sleeve is twisted to define the normally closed access opening.

7. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sealing member is of an elastomeric material.

8. (Previously Presented) A surgical device for use in surgery comprising:
a mounting element;
a twisted sealing member of pliable material mounted to the mounting element,
the sealing member having a normally closed access opening;
at least a portion of the sealing member being untwisted on insertion of an object
to open the access opening whilst maintaining substantial sealing engagement with the
object; and
a spring element to bias the sealing member to close the access opening.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mounting element comprises a first ring element and a second ring element, and the spring element extends between the first and second ring elements.

10. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the spring element has opposite ends and at least one of the ends is attached to one of the first and second ring elements.

11. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 10 wherein one end of the spring element is attached to the first ring element and the other end of the spring element is attached to the second ring element.

12. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the first ring element is a fixed ring element and the second ring element is rotatable relative to the first ring element.

13. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein one ring element is located within the other ring element.

14. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 12 wherein one ring element has a rib which is locatable in a corresponding groove in the other ring element.

15. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sealing member is a sleeve, one end of the sleeve being mounted to one ring element and an opposite end of the sleeve being mounted to the other ring element.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the sleeve has a first mounting ring at one end for mounting to the first ring element and a second mounting ring at an opposite end for mounting to the second ring element.

18. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first and second ring elements have locators for a biasing element extending between the first and second ring elements.

19. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the locators comprise a groove.

20. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sealing member comprises a sleeve having an untwisted configuration and a twisted sealing configuration, the sleeve in the untwisted configuration having a length which is less than a diameter of the sleeve.

21. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein one ring element is rotatable relative to the other ring element.

22. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mounting element has an attachment for mounting to another device including a retractor.

23. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the attachment comprises a groove.

24. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the other device comprises a sleeve element and the attachment is engagable with the sleeve element.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the mounting element is slidale relative to the other device.

27. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the other device comprises a sealing device.

28. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 27 wherein the sealing device is located proximally of the sealing member.

29. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 27 wherein the sealing device comprises a lip seal.

30. (Original) A hand access device for use in hand assisted laparoscopic surgery comprising a device as claimed in claim 1.

31. (Original) A surgical device assembly comprising a retractor and a device as claimed in claim 1.

32. (Original) An assembly as claimed in claim 31 wherein the device is releasably mountable to the retractor.

33. (Original) An assembly as claimed in claim 32 wherein device is mounted to the retractor.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of performing hand assisted surgery comprising the steps of:
providing a device as claimed in claim 1; and
inserting a surgeon's hand or arm into the device against the biasing of the sealing member whilst maintaining substantial sealing engagement between the sealing member and the surgeon's hand or arm.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of performing a surgical procedure comprising the steps of providing a device as claimed in claim 1 and inserting the object into the device against the biasing of the sealing member whilst maintaining sealing engagement between the sealing member and the object.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the mounting element is movable automatically on insertion of the object.

39. (Currently Amended) A surgical device for use in surgery comprising:
a mounting element including a biasing element, a first ring element, and a second ring element;

 a sealing member of pliable material mounted to the mounting element, the sealing member having a normally closed access opening, the biasing element biasing the sealing member to close the access opening;

 at least a portion of the sealing member being movable on insertion of an object to open the access opening whilst maintaining substantial sealing engagement with the object; and

 movement of the sealing member causing movement of one of the first ring element and the second ring element relative to the other of the first ring element and the second ring element.

40. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 39 wherein twisting at least a portion of the sealing member tends to close the access opening, and inserting the object causes automatic untwisting of at least a portion of the sealing member.

41. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 39, wherein movement of the sealing member causes rotation of one of the first ring element and the second ring element relative to the other of the first ring element and the second ring element.